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AN AMERICAN PAPER FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

The
New
Governor.

It is Governor Roosevelt now, and the most earnest political opponents of the new head of New York's State Government must feel a sense of relief at the change in the incumbency of the executive office. We have exchanged a shifty politician for a straightforward, honest, combative man of affairs, who really wants to do right and has not very much patience with persons who try to persuade him to act otherwise.

It is fortunate that Governor Roosevelt's character is so well known. If it were as unfamiliar to the public as that of ex-Governor Black was two years ago the inaugural address might not have a very reassuring effect. It is not in itself, considered apart from the personality of its author, a particularly inspiring utterance. It is not cynically unscrupulous, as Mr. Black's inaugural was, but it is equally lacking in the power to drive home a conviction that the things the public really wants are to be done. In fact—we apologize to Governor Roosevelt for the comparison, but the thought will not down—it suggests nothing so much as an address by the late Grover Cleveland.

Governor Roosevelt heretofore has always been a man of definite and decided purpose. His mind has been focussed clearly upon certain things, and he has never had a trace of hesitation in expressing his views and intentions regarding them. But nothing of this appears in the inaugural. There is no hint of any definite policy on any specific matter of State government. The whole address is composed of abstract encomiums upon virtue, such as the Sage of Princeton loves.

Mr. Roosevelt holds the unexceptionable opinions that "a very heavy responsibility rests upon the Governor of New York State;" that in the administration of our government there is need of "such homely virtues and qualities as common sense, honesty and courage;" that "there are very many difficult problems to face;" that we must "face the facts as we find them," to meet each difficulty in practical fashion, and to strive steadily for the betterment both of our civic and our social conditions; that we must "combine efficiency and morality, high principle and rough common sense, justice and the sturdiest physical and moral courage;" and that "he serves his party best who most helps to make it instantly responsive to every need of the people and to the highest demands of that spirit which tends to drive us onward and upward."

All admirable—all worthy to be inscribed in any teacher's copybook, and all free from any sentiment that could not be indorsed with equal enthusiasm by Mr. G. Cleveland and Mr. A. Gruber. As to Governor Roosevelt's opinions on the definite issues of State policy—well, no doubt we shall be able to gather those from the message that will be transmitted to the Legislature.

A YEAR AGO ADMIRAL DEWEY was far down on the list of commodores. Now he is the ranking Rear Admiral of the navy. In another year, unless Congress interferes, he will be retired. This illustrates several things. One of them is the need for a reorganization of our naval personnel, so that officers will have a chance to acquire a calling acquaintance with the higher grades, instead of rattling by them like passengers on a lightning express train. Another is the urgency for a suspension of the age limit in Dewey's case. We do not want to lose the heir of Farragut in another year. Let Dewey be made an Admiral, and remain in the active service until he is at least 60.

ARE WOMEN
RESPONSIBLE
BEINGS?

Botkin, who sent poisoned candy across the continent to the wife of a man with whom she had held immoral relations, killing the wife and the wife's sister, was convicted on clear proof and in short order in San Francisco on Friday. The jury, however, saved her from the rope.

If this clemency were due to the growth of a public sentiment in California hostile to capital punishment, the end of the Botkin trial would be satisfactory to every one who regards hanging as a survival from a less civilized state of society. But there is no evidence of the prevalence of such a sentiment in California. Murderers are put to death frequently there and no public protest is heard except from their attorneys and those who believe them not so guilty as the law has adjudged.

Had the poisoner been Mr. Botkin, instead of Mrs. Botkin, the jury would have hanged him undoubtedly. Only the sex of the murderer has saved her neck. No woman has ever yet been sent to the gallows in California, though many women have committed murder. Their exemption from the same penalty that is inflicted upon men is due to what passes out there, and elsewhere, for chivalry.

That is to say, juries in dealing with females who shame womanhood by their blood-thirst and utter depravity of heart, argue that in being kind to them they are, somehow or other, showing respect for good women, who of all beings have least in common with such cruel and abandoned creatures.

Turn it the other way about. It is reported that Dunham, who two years ago murdered six persons, including his wife and her parents, has at last been caught. Would the sparing of this fiend from the halter be construed as a compliment to the male sex by any man out of the asylum?

The immediate question raised by the mercy shown Mrs. Botkin is not whether the death penalty for deliberate murder should or should not be abolished, but whether, while the law pronounces that penalty, juries do well to repeal the law for the benefit of females who, were they men, would be required to die? Looked at closely, the discrimination reveals a belief on the part of men that women are not to be considered as morally and legally responsible creatures.

USEFUL
LESSONS FOR
NEW
AMERICANS.

Our system of military government must astonish the inhabitants of Porto Rico no less than the Cubans. We are applying practical and honest methods that furnish startling parallels compared with the oppression and the corruption of the Spanish authorities.

General Henry has reduced the Porto Rican budget for next year from the 4,000,000 pesos formerly wrung from the people by the thieving Spaniards to 1,700,000 pesos. He is also planning to apply the Custom House revenues to cleaning the cities and improving the roads.

Under such intelligent and humane direction it will not take long to convince our fellow-citizens in Porto Rico, our neighbors in Cuba, and eventually the Filipinos, that the friendship of the United States is of inestimable value, and that wherever the flag floats there will dwell humanity, liberty and justice.

POISONING
OUR
SOLDIERS.

If any one was inclined to doubt General Miles' testimony as to the quality of the beef furnished the army, that doubt must have been removed by the evidence of Major W. H. Daly. This officer bears witness that at Tampa, at Jacksonville, at Porto Rico and at Chickamauga he found the beef prepared with chemicals, designed for its preservation, but which rendered it nauseating to taste and smell and detrimental to the health of the troops. He says: "It had an odor similar to that of a dead human body after being injected with preservatives. The odor was so disgustingly sickening that I was obliged to throw fifteen hundred pounds of it overboard."

General Miles reported to Alger that beef of this kind was unfit and remonstrated against its use, but his protests were disregarded.

General Miles, we think, can be trusted to bring responsibility home to the men, whether in or out of office, who did this scandalous trading in the health and lives of our soldiers. The public will back him to the limit in pursuing and exposing the jobbers if the Administration does not.

DEVELOP THE
KINDER-
GARTENS.

The public school system, which was once thought to be amply equipped when it provided for instruction in the three R's, has now been extended until it takes in the kindergarten at one end and the college at the other. And no part of the whole course is more important than that which takes the child at the threshold of life and moulds his character for his whole existence.

The kindergarten works on plastic material. It takes the slum child before he has been degraded and brutalized by his surroundings and develops the better side of his nature until it is strong enough to resist the adverse influences about him. It is a more powerful force for good citizenship than a thousand theoretical lectures on civics delivered after the mind has been permanently bent in the wrong direction.

At first the kindergarten was always a private or charitable institution. Then it began to be adopted by progressive municipal governments.

The California law empowers the jury in murder cases to fix the penalty at either hanging or imprisonment for life. Mrs.

But the New York public kindergartens are hardly more than experimental as yet. They do not reach the great mass of child life that is waiting in pathetic, dumb endurance for a chance to develop in the right direction. The city should organize its kindergartens on the same scale as its schools, with the intention of covering the entire ground and reaching every child that needs its care. That is the course dictated alike by logic, humanity and good, practical sense.

PAYING THEM
IN THEIR
OWN COIN.

When the Agricultural bill, which has passed the House, becomes a law, we will have less of unfair French and German inspections of American imports. The new law will give the Commissioner of Agriculture power to order a rigid chemical analysis of French brandies and champagnes, and also French canned goods and sweetmeats. German cheese and sausage will also have to pass a strict inspection.

This threat of retaliation has been made necessary by France and Germany's rigorous inspection of American meats, fruits and dairy products. The officials of these countries have materially injured our foreign trade by attacks upon the quality and wholesomeness of our food exports, done to further the interest of their own products.

Germany has been a persistent and vicious offender, going so far as to bar American peeled dried fruits, through alleged fear of the San Jose scale.

As soon as the bill which makes reprisals possible passed the House a movement was started for a reciprocity treaty between France and Germany and this country.

It is just as well to impress our friends across the water that in a commercial war we are amply able to hold our own.

A WAY TO
UNSEAT THE
POLYGAMIST.

A dispatch from Salt Lake City announces that Warren Foster, who was the Populist candidate for Congress, will contest Mormon Roberts' right to a seat in the House of Representatives.

The issues raised by Mr. Foster will have to be determined by the Committee on Contested Elections, and they are important enough to warrant the belief that Roberts will be unseated. Foster claims that Roberts was ineligible, under the Edmunds law, to hold any office; that he is not a citizen of the United States, having refused to conduct himself in a manner that would entitle him to the benefits of the amnesty, proclamations issued by Presidents Cleveland and Harrison.

Mr. Foster's contest answers the point made by those who contend that the certificate of election signed by the Governor of Utah was prima facie evidence that Roberts was entitled to his seat, and the House of Representatives had no power to question it.

As is well known, the House is the sole judge of the qualifications of its members, and there can be no doubt that the testimony produced by Mr. Foster before the Committee on Contested Elections will be of so damaging a character that when the committee's report reaches the House Roberts will be unseated.

If there is a special session called for the 4th of March Roberts' case will immediately engage the attention of Congress. An outraged public sentiment demands his expulsion on the highest moral grounds. If Congressmen are so timorous as to fear to unseat him for this reason, they will find ample cause in the charges brought by Warren Foster.

Instead of submitting to the law against polygamy Mr. Roberts maintains his unlawful relations with his three wives, and attempts to defend his immorality. He and those who have offered an insult to the nation in his election should be taught a lesson that they will not forget.

THIEVES IN SPRINGFIELD, Illinois, have committed the almost incredible outrage of stealing from Governor Tanner. Is there no such thing as professional courtesy in Illinois?

Volunteers Want to Be Mustered Out.

Editor of the New York Journal: Dear Sir—Acting under a suggestion of the majority of the Two Hundred and Third New York Regiment, I take this liberty to address you concerning a general mustering out of the volunteer army. The men now in the service have reached that point where they realize that something must be done, and that at once, to restore them to their proper sphere, and in order to accomplish this desired result they have arrived at the conclusion that the medium of your valuable paper is the best.

In making this appeal to you I am voicing the sentiment of nearly the entire volunteer army, as the men truly believe that their services are no longer required; that they have done their duty to their country and are now anxious to return to civil life.

I wish to thank the Journal for the enterprise it has shown in getting papers to the boys. We have been in the service six months, and have had the Journal every day. I am yours sincerely, GEORGE W. JOHNSTON, Company F, Two Hundred and Third Regiment, Greenville, S. C., Dec. 27.

The Moloch of Mormonism.

Editor of the New York Journal: Dear Sir—Your intelligent readers must be well pleased that you have attacked the Mormon monster in one of its worst phases. Why not strike at its very roots by publishing in your paper periodically a carefully compiled history of the organization from the days of Joseph Smith & Co. to the present time? The well-known liberality of your paper in religious and social matters would insure impartiality, and its wide circulation would insure a host of interested readers. Your articles would be translated into many foreign languages, and it is reasonable to suppose many poor, deluded people would be saved from the wiles of Mormon missionaries.

I know one young girl that, through false representations, was enticed from Switzerland to Utah. Similar instances have occurred the world over. The silly and ignorant are being enticed to Utah by practised emissaries of the Mormon organization, the chief object being to tax them ten per cent of all their earnings. No matter how poor, this Mormon Moloch must be fed. Yours faithfully, FRANCIS WRIGHT.

—S. January 1

NOT LIKE THE SAME OLD CAPITOL.



Cheerless Home Coming of Wanderers Who Have Seen Better Days.

NAT GOODWIN IN "NATHAN HALE." ALAN DALE REVIEWS CLYDE FITCH'S PLAY.

CLYDE FITCH has hit it at last. For the first time since he wrote "Beau Brummell" (with due apologies to Richard Mansfield), he has emerged from the pink-dinner, yellow-tea, codfish favor play. In "Nathan Hale" which was produced at the Knickerbocker Theatre last night by Nat—that is to say N. C.—Goodwin and wife, Mr. Fitch has dealt with a subject that will be quite useless to his usual constituents, Susan Jane and Mary Ann. He has given us a highly dramatic, vivid and well-written four-act play, with Nathan Hale as a hero and his sweetheart as a heroine. There isn't a duchess, a lady of title, or even an "Hon. Mrs." to cheer Mr. Fitch. He has gone upon his path unaided by snobbery, and the result, as seen last night, was most satisfactory. Nobody can write better English than this young playwright. Nobody has a thicker veneer of refinement. But these qualities have, as a rule, been forgotten away. Welcome "Nathan Hale!"

The play begins better than it ends. There was a time, in the first scene of the third act, when it looked as though the fabric was about to totter. Nathan goes for notes and charts to the enemy. He finds the enemy at the Widow Chichester's tavern, in Long Island. He enters, and instantly the red coats lay bare their plans as though they had been waiting for the young schoolmaster. This looked to me rather weak—as though Nathan Hale's arduous work was too much of a "clinch."

Also at the close of the third act, when Nathan disables two able-bodied gentlemen, and dashes off melodramatically with sweet Alice Adams, we feel just a trifle disappointed. This was also something of an anti-climax, and anti-climaxes are dangerous. But the two first acts of "Nathan Hale" are so charming, and one situation in the next act is so enthralling that the play can hold all the scholars and sweet Alice Adams.

Nat—that is to say N. C.—Goodwin played his part with such ease and unctious that emotionalism is really common more readily to him than to his fellow par-struggler, W. H. Crane. Mr. Goodwin was a rifle too heroic to satisfy me. He was Nathan Hale, but he was a Nathan Hale who fervently believed in himself and liked to

pose in the cozy centre of the stage. You could almost see this Nathan Hale waiting for applause, and note his self-satisfied look when it came. But Mr. Goodwin is a popular star, and popular stars are allowed a great deal of latitude. Modern audiences expect to see them in the centre of every picture, and Mr. Goodwin did not disappoint their particularly momentary audience of last night. I shall never be able to overcome my affliction for the comedian, whom reporters used to call "the genial Nat" in rollicking farce. I shall never be able to disabuse my mind of the idea that he was cut out for it. In "Nathan Hale," however, he was perhaps as satisfactory as his admirers could expect him to be. Miss Maxine Elliott is now "starring" jointly with N. C. To the uninitiated that may not be a very valuable piece of information. But to the initiated (and sometimes I wonder at the quantity of initiated people that make up a New York audience) the circumstance means big type on the programmes and "opportunities" galore.

Miss Elliott was a somewhat mature Alice, but a lovely one. A handsome heroine no theatre-goer could possibly desire, but Miss Elliott must be careful of herself. Life is evidently strenuous, and subplots' fatal clutches are evident. In fact, Miss Elliott in her skittish scene before the looking glass was almost too penderous to undertake the task of convincing the audience of the circumstance means big type on the programmes and "opportunities" galore.

Miss Estelle Mortimer as Mistress Knowlton did a capital bit of character acting, and Miss Gertrude Elliott was something more than the shadow of her obliging sister this time, and Miss Harrie Russell, as the Widow Chichester, was a pleasantly refined tavern keeper. Of the men Thomas Oberle and Chas. D. Boring, deserve especial mention, while the "schoolboy" of Richard Sterling stood forth conspicuously. "Nathan Hale" may unhesitatingly be set down as one of the successes of this successful season. At the close of the third act Mr. Goodwin declined to make a speech, but suggested his willingness to do so at the end of the play. This was a diplomatic move, as if a speech is needed at any time it is when the audience is about to disperse. A better move, still, however, would be to do away with the "speech" altogether. What can be more absurd than the idea of an actor thanking his audience for enjoying a play? It is one of those old-fashioned notions that should be allowed to disappear gracefully, but irretrievably.

ALAN DALE.

HOW TO "ORGANIZE" HAVANA.

A LETTER TO THE CHIEF OF CUBAN POLICE.

Mr. William H. McCullagh:

Dear Sir—The following news item is my occasion for this letter to you: "Havana, Dec. 29th.—During the last forty-eight hours seven men have been killed and twenty-two wounded in affrays in different parts of the city, and seventeen burglaries and eight highway robberies have been committed. The city is in a disturbed state."

never been scientifically cultivated so as to produce proper dividends. One gratifying fact is that this influx is of



THIS announcement indicates that you have arrived safely in Havana and have begun your task of organizing a model police department. We in New York recognize the familiar symptoms of police reorganization and general improvement. It was just the same here when Reform followed in the footsteps of Lexow, and the police, under the eagle eye of a stern disciplinarian, were made to conform to the strictest rules of conduct. Burglars and footpads piled their trades unmolested, while the coppers harried pedlars, cigar dealers and flower girls with a devoted earnestness worthy of all praise.

The resemblance in the Cuban capital to the former state of affairs here gives rise to a belief and a hope that you have rolled up your sleeves and are hustling.

Havana is as yet in a condition of mediæval simplicity; the fruit has never been gathered, and to the workers it presents a perfect Klondike as compared with the former harvests culled with the Spanish sword of war, instead of the American sickle, or, rather, steam reaper of peace. Its police districts have never been systematically organized, revenues have been gathered in by all sorts of men and without supervision or method, and its sources of income have

In the redistricting of the city they can be assigned to different quarters, so that their missionary work will be felt at once. In the knock-out-drop centres, near the harbor, or at the steamer wharves, where the bunco or green goods men will mostly operate, this will be the first potent effort of the new era. A more popular zone of effort will be in the "crap parlors," naturally popular with a mixed population. A crap game, as you know, pays better than almost any other form of vice. Lotteries are now flourishingly extant, and the supplementary policy shop will make the desert bloom like a Long Island house, and it is safe to say will yield a return of several thousand per month. With ward men conversant with the Spanish tongue, pool rooms, policy shops, dives and faro banks alone could enable an official in your position to outwield by the mile not only in Japan but in Harle or Tuxedo.

In course of time it is to be hoped you will have brought the city to that state of police perfection which we have enjoyed some time since, if even we're not enjoying it now. Panel and badger gangs, McGlory halls, Gould sand-bagging dives, "bree" faro banks and crooked roulette wheels are other well-paying forms of dissipation which will enrich the bay rum tree, and the gay, glacial times when every copper divided up with every straw, pedlar, cabman, bootblack and newsman on his front will be eclipsed. Then a New York captain will rejoice to be transferred to Cuba, and those who remain in New York will turn green with uncontrollable envy.

WALT McDUGALL.